

Boxing Day Fixture Abandoned In Fog

WITH the new line-up showing impressive form in the Boxing Day fixture against Oxford City at Loakes Park, before the match was abandoned in fog, Wycombe Wanderers are making no change for the return Isthmian League fixture at Oxford this afternoon.

New centre-forward Peter Lowen, a timely acquisition just before the opening of the Amateur Cup campaign, and right-half George Maharg, who displaced Dave Thomas, retain their places after their promising displays on Boxing Day.

A dense, swirling fog which swept over Loakes Park forced the referee to abandon Wycombe Wanderers' Isthmian League game with Oxford City after only 28 minutes of play on Boxing Day, with the Wanderers leading 1-0.

This was a blow to Wycombe, who were leading their traditional Christmas rivals by a single goal from Len Worley, scored in the tenth minute. But the referee, Mr. E. K. Bond, had little alternative. One moment the pitch was clear and the next players could hardly see one another.

Mr. Bond decided to review the situation after a 15-minute break but the fog was still swirling menacingly and looking likely to thicken.

NEWCOMERS

But the brief period of play on a wet and slippery pitch showed the large holiday crowd the wisdom of coach Don Welsh's shock changes.

New right-half George Maharg, 25-years-old Scotsman who formerly assisted Crystal Palace as an amateur, took over Dave Thomas's position with great promise. A strong, rugged player, he soon struck up an understanding with Gale and Worley.

Peter Lowen also made his first senior appearance and formed a lively double spearhead

with John Balson, enabling Horseman to take a more roving role.

MISSED PENALTY

After their dismal display against Corinthian - Casuals, Wycombe tried quickly to get into their stride, and should have taken the lead after eight minutes, when a shot from Hodges was pushed away by Goodison, but Roystone, Wycombe's third penalty-kick taker of the season, lifted his shot over the bar.

But in the next minute the Wanderers got their reward when Horseman, Balson and Lowen combined for Worley to crash in a goal. Oxford should have equalised shortly afterwards but

Howlett's header went over the bar.

Soon after this the fog started creeping in and the referee stopped the game. So the Oxford-Wycombe hoodoo struck again. Last Boxing Day the game was played in a snow-storm and the one before that was abandoned because of snow and ice. Another was held up because of a breakdown of the Oxford lights.

Wycombe—D. Syrett; J. Beck, G. Pullin; G. Maharg, P. Roystone, C. Gale; L. Worley, T. Horseman, P. Lowen, J. Balson, P. Hodges.

Oxford—J. Maskell; R. Jackson, K. Rumble; R. Goodison, I. Rundie, D. Buswell; A. Bricknell, J. Woodley, A. Howlett, T. Bradbury, T. Gardner.